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# Double Agent, Revealed by F.B.I., Tells of Technique

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WASHINGTON, March 3 — A former Soviet spy who worked for several years as a double agent supplying information to the United States made his public debut today, describing methods of the Soviet spying craft, his role in identifying other Soviet agents and his early quest for information about American politicians.

The former spy, identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Col. Rudolph Albert Herrmann, has been given asylum in this country with his wife and adult son. He had worked as a freelance photographer while living in Hartsdale, N.Y. and said he had had a photography business in New York City.

Colonel Herrmann, now with a new identity and appearance, sat behind an illuminated screen, with only a silhouette visible to reporters, and puffed on a pipe as he answered questions at the F.B.I. headquarters.

A bureau spokesman said that the colonel, a veteran of the K.G.B., the Soviet Committee for State Security, which is in charge of foreign intelligence, was speaking through a device that would disguise his voice.

The colonel, a citizen not of the Soviet Union but of an unspecified Eastern European country, did not obtain classified information or military secrets in this country, nor did he recruit United

States officials, according to the F.B.I. But the colonel said that he had supplied the Kremlin with "some information which could be called detrimental to the interests of the United States." He did not elaborate.

While working for the Russians, the colonel also unsuccessfully sought to thwart a manned American space mission.

The reason for exposing Colonel Herrmann was not clear, nor was it clear how the bureau established that he was no longer reporting to the Russians.

Colonel Herrmann said that he appeared in public "as a part of my deal with the F.B.I." He said, "Either I would cooperate with the F.B.I. or I would be given to the prosecutors." Homer A. Boynton Jr., an executive assistant director of the bureau, said the colonel might have been prosecuted as a spy, had he not cooperated.

The publicity about Colonel Herrmann was evidently designed to embarrass the Russians at a time of heightened Soviet-American tensions.

Reporters asked Mr. Boynton whether today's news conference might be intended to influence Congress as it begins to review the bureau's proposed budget for next year. Mr. Boynton rejected this suggestion. State Department specialists on the Soviet Union said the initiative for unveiling Colonel Herrmann had come from the Justice Department, of which the F.B.I. is a part.

Colonel Herrmann said that he tried to "get close" to unspecified candidates in Presidential election years so that he would have "some type of foot in the door" if they were elected. According to the bureau, the colonel, who said he was about 45 years old, sought information about American attitudes toward Soviet-American trade negotiations, the proposed neutron bomb and détente.

Mr. Boynton characterized Colonel Herrmann as a "big fish" among those Soviet intelligence operatives known as "illegals" because they do not have the legal cover of diplomatic posts. The colonel said he communicated with Moscow directly.

Colonel Herrmann's 25-year career with the K.G.B. began, according to the American authorities, in the 1950's while he was serving in the military of a Soviet bloc nation. He received his initial training in the use of codes, invisible ink and other espionage techniques in East Germany, according to the F.B.I. In 1958, he said, he went as a phony refugee to West Germany and "apparently they accepted me."

Colonel Herrmann then lived six years in Canada and entered the United States in 1968. Mr. Boynton said that Colonel Herrmann had begun working for the United States "a number of years" ago, but he refused to be specific.

According to the F.B.I., the colonel's unsuccessful attempt to force an embarrassing delay of an American space flight was one of his first missions for the K.G.B. The Russians furnished Colonel Herrmann with the text of a letter that he was to send anonymously to the American authorities, warning that the space vehicle might be sabotaged, the F.B.I. said.

Miles M. Waggoner, a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said that the letter dealt with the Apollo 8 voyage to the moon, launched on Dec. 21, 1968. The letter was placed in a file of "crank letters" and did not interfere with the space flight, Mr. Waggoner said.

Mr. Boynton said that no K.G.B. agents had been caught as a result of Colonel Herrmann's conversion although, he said, the former spy helped identify or confirm the identification of "illegal support agents" attached to various Soviet offices in this country.

American officials said that the operation was ended because of a growing fear that the K.G.B. suspected Colonel Herrmann's cooperation with American intelligence officials. Another factor, they said, was that Colonel Herrmann's son, also a former spy, had been ordered to return to Moscow for advanced training with no guarantee that he could come back to the United States.

In discussing Colonel Herrmann, F.B.I. officials recalled earlier Soviet espionage cases. Colonel Herrmann appeared to be less important than Col. Rudolf I. Abel, the spy who operated in the United States for nine years before his arrest in 1957. Colonel Abel was exchanged in 1962 for Francis Gary Powers, the pilot of a U-2 reconnaissance plane brought down over the Soviet Union.